

**P-20 Council Meeting Notes  
December 16, 2019  
DRAFT**

Marion E. Profitt Training Center  
Appoquinimink School District  
118 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Odessa, DE

Members Present: Whitney Sweeney, Susan Bunting, Madeleine Bayard, Sarah Bucic, Christine Eisenhower, Kevin Fitzgerald, Jeff Gibson, Representative Earl Jaques, Rhonda Lehman, John Pelesko, Michael Quaranta, Sen. David Sokola, Kimberley Sudler, and Steve Yeatman.

Others Present: Jenna Ahner, Kathleen Smith, Joe Jones, Monica Gant, Shana Payne, Malavika Dhawan, Kasia Lundy, Kelly Sherretz, Kim Krzanowski, Autumn Green, Caitlin Gleason, Alison White, and Rob Rescigno.

**I. Welcome and Objectives**

Dr. Susan Bunting, Secretary of Education and Co-Chair of the P-20 Council, called the meeting to order at 2:35pm.

Dr. Bunting provided an overview of the agenda and outlined objectives for the meeting.

**II. Approval of October 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Bunting presented the draft minutes from the October 21, 2019 meeting.

Dr. Kimberley Sudler provided a clarification of her comments and asked that the minutes reflect that Delaware State University recently welcomed its first freshman class in recent years to enroll entirely in college-level courses in Math and ELA.

A motion was made by Rep. Jaques and seconded by Sen. Sokola to approve the October 21, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried.

**III. P-20 Council and Subcommittee Updates**

Dr. Monica Gant, Associate Secretary, Academic Support, Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), provided the status of the recommendations from the Committees to Reduce Math and ELA remediation. Dr. Gant noted that the Department is working on finalizing the memberships for the combined ELA and Math Committee and the

Committee will meet in early 2020. Council members asked questions about the recommendations that are on hold and what next steps are needed in order to move forward. Members commented that the items on hold may have the highest impact on reducing the number of students needing remediation. Members were asked to communicate recommended next steps to the Secretary Bunting and Ms. Sweeney.

Ms. Whitney Sweeney shared that the Educator Supports for Early Literacy through IHEs Subcommittee continues to develop recommendations on teacher preparation and professional development. The Subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on January 27, 2020. Please forward comments or questions to the chairs, Shelley Rouser and Carol Vukelich. The subcommittee will finalize its recommendations and bring a list forward to the Council for consideration.

In order to assist in communicating information regarding work underway across our organizations, a monthly email will be sent to highlight data, news, events, and resources. Please email content or recommendations to [jenna.ahner@sbe.k12.de.us](mailto:jenna.ahner@sbe.k12.de.us).

#### **IV. Dual Enrollment Committee Recommendations and Next Steps for P-20 Council Members**

Ms. Shana Payne, Director, Delaware Higher Education Office, DDOE, shared the recommendations of the DDOE committee on dual enrollment, including suggested next steps for the P-20 Council. Ms. Payne shared the committee's work to date, including examining current dual enrollment programs, evaluating national best practices and the application of best practices in Delaware, and co-designing a support model to ensure that student needs are best served.

Ms. Payne asked the Council to consider identifying a partner to produce a report on dual enrollment access and success, to identify individuals to help develop a course database, and to identify individuals to participate in a cost analysis discussion.

Council members asked questions regarding data on the number of students taking dual enrollment coursework and where they go to college, opportunities to eliminate barriers and increase program access, costs for students across districts, and how opportunities vary across districts. The DDOE Committee will continue to gather data to inform next steps.

## **V. Discussion on Early Learning in Delaware: Programs, Needs Assessment, and Strategic Plan Development**

Dr. Kim Krzanowski, Director, Office of Early Learning, DDOE, and Madeleine Bayard, P-20 Council Member and Chair of the Early Childhood Council, presented information on early learning programs in Delaware. They highlighted the current structure of early learning governance, the importance of early learning programs, and connections to the P-20 Council's work.

Members discussed the low percentage of students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade who are reading proficiently. Members discussed the importance of having books in the home and current programs that help increase the availability of books for children. The importance of aligning early childhood education with K-12 education was discussed, as well as needs for capital, materials, and teacher certification challenges.

Ms. Caitlin Gleason, Education Associate, Alignment and Professional Development, DDOE presented an overview of the needs assessment process completed from July through October 2019. Ms. Gleason facilitated discussion on the data that was collected. The Council discussed the challenges with the current data systems, turnover in the early childhood workforce, and a need to build capacity in the early childhood workforce. Members asked for information about policy and practice in other states.

Ms. Malavika Dhawan and Ms. Kasia Lundy from EY-Parthenon presented statistics on the demographics of the Early Childhood Education workforce, as well as the key opportunities as identified through the needs assessment. Members discussed accessibility and related costs of high-quality child care being prohibitive to many families. Ms. Dhawan and Ms. Lundy identified key strategic issues for further discussion. Council members discussed opportunities to better connect data systems through learning from current in-state practices and best practices in other states.

The committee asked the Council to share information regarding the needs assessment and strategic plan with their constituent groups. Additional information will be shared once the strategic plan is released in 2020.

## **VI. Updates from P-20 Council Members**

Dr. Kimberley Sudler, Delaware State University, shared that Delaware State University recently launched a Summer Academy where students can earn up to 12 credits. They are looking to scale up this program in future years. Dr. Rob Rescigno shared that Wilmington University is excited about the grants awarded to support year-long residency. He also shared that Wilmington University will be rolling out a certification that will assist

teachers to receive national board certification in partnership with National Board for Professional Teacher Standards. Ms. Sarah Bucic shared information about the PTA's current priorities, including support for K-3 basic special education funding and sharing information about the census and the impact that an accurate census count has on funding issues. Mr. Steve Yeatman of Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families noted the success of the Take Care Delaware pilot program that is underway in partnership with Smyrna School District and the local police departments to share sensitive information about traumatic events in students' lives so that the awareness helps inform educational needs. Mr. Mike Quaranta shared the updates to the Superstars in Education program and the Chamber of Commerce's focus on workforce development for upper high school-aged students.

## **VII. Next Steps and Adjournment**

Dr. Bunting thanked participants for their time. Future meetings of the P-20 Council are scheduled for February 10, 2020 at 2:30pm and April 6, 2020 at 2:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35.